

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD AT COUNTY HALL, NEWPORT, ISLE OF  
WIGHT ON WEDNESDAY, 21 FEBRUARY 2007 COMMENCING AT 6.00 PM

Present :

Cllr Charles Chapman (Chairman), Barry Abraham, Henry Adams, Wendy Arnold, George Brown, Ivan Bulwer, William Burt, George Cameron, Vanessa Churchman, Dawn Cousins, Mike Cunningham, John Effemey, Jonathan Fitzgerald-Bond, Deborah Gardiner, Charles Hancock, John Hobart, Heather Humby, Tim Hunter-Henderson, Patrick Joyce, Gill Kennett, David Knowles, Geoff Lumley, Win McRobert, Roger Mazillius, Muriel Miller, Brian Mosdell, Erica Oulton, Lora Peacey-Wilcox, Lady Pigot, Garry Price, David Pugh, Susan Scoccia, Ian Stephens, Andy Sutton, Melanie Swan, Arthur Taylor, Diana Tuson, Ian Ward, Margaret Webster, Alan Wells, Colin West, David Whittaker, Julian Whittaker, David Williams, Jilly Wood

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Apologies :

Cllrs Anne Bishop, John Bowker, Barbara Foster and Mr Bruce Claxton (Chairman of the Standards Committee)

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49. MINUTES

RESOLVED :

THAT the Minutes of the meeting held on [17 January 2007](#) be confirmed.

50. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations received at this stage.

51. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Questions were put to the Chairman as follows:

Mr John Wortham of Brighstone asked a question relating to the date in Paper B, paragraph 7(iii), which he felt was incorrect. The Chief Executive advised that this point would be covered in his statement later in the agenda.

Mrs Jill Wareham put a question regarding the access to information rule and the late release of the Appendices 1 to 4 for Paper C. The Chief Executive would provide a written response. Mrs Wareham also asked when the legal consultation would take place regarding the change of age range for middle schools and the Cabinet Member for Education, Skills and Learning advised that a public meeting would be held at which questions and concerns could be raised.

Mr Bob Blezzard of Sandown queried whether the joint letter from the Chief Executive and the Leader to the County Press on 3 November 2006 could have been viewed as political. The Chief Executive advised that this issue would be debated at the next Council meeting.

Mr Liam Verstraeten of Newport queried the amount of council money spent on employing mainland consultants and the Leader advised that the matter would be investigated and a response provided.

## 52. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman reminded Council about the Chairman's Challenge at LA Bowl on Sunday, 4 March 2007 and encouraged Members to support this event.

On behalf of the Council, the Chairman congratulated the Revenue and Benefits team for achieving four star status for their service.

## 53. REPORT OF THE HEAD OF PAID SERVICE AND THE MONITORING OFFICER

Council considered the report and the appendices and heard a statement from the Chief Executive. The Leader provided an introduction and it was proposed and seconded that Council accept the recommendations as set out in the report.

RESOLVED:

(i) THAT the report of Mark Heath into Undercliff Drive be accepted.

(ii) THAT an Investigatory and Disciplinary Committee be appointed with the following terms of reference:

- To review and scrutinise the circumstances leading up to the letting of the contracts for works at Undercliff Drive.
- To consider any personal responsibility of officers, members or contractors that has led to the position identified in the Heath Report and to discharge the functions of the “Investigating Committee/Investigating Panel” as set out in the JNC Conditions of Service.
- To consider any allegations made against Officers (or their predecessors) and decide if further investigation is required;
- To carryout a preliminary investigation and determine if a question of discipline exists which requires investigation by a Designated Independent Person, where required, in accordance with the Standing Orders Regulations.
- Subject to the Regulations and to the extent not already delegated to an officer of the Council, to suspend any relevant Officers or to hear any grievance or representation from an officer in that position.
- To hear evidence and representations from the Statutory Officers in order to decide if a case exists.
- To appoint a designated independent person, further to statutory provisions and relevant national agreements.

- To receive any reports from the DIP and, subject to the Regulations, implement any recommendations arising from such a report.
- To appoint sub-committees to hear any specific issue, allegations or representation set out in these terms of reference.
- To approve any terms for settlement of any claims or disputes arising as between the Council and its senior officers.
- To authorise expenditure on external advice and assistance in completing the committee's work.
- To advise the Cabinet on any procurement issues which are within the Cabinet's terms of reference, to include any advice on any tendering, contract award or specification and any future action to be taken with respect to either the consultancy contract or any other contract relating to the works for Undercliff drive where these are relevant to the Heath report.
- To have oversight of the ongoing actions, decisions and progress with regards to the Undercliff Drive Project, making recommendations to other Council decision makers where appropriate

(iii) THAT the Committee will have 7 members and that the following be appointed to the Committee:

Cllr George Brown (Chairman)

Cllr Tim Hunter-Henderson

Cllr Ivan Bulwer

Cllr Anne Bishop

Cllr Colin West

Cllr Muriel Miller

54. BUDGET AND COUNCIL TAX SETTING

It was proposed and seconded that Members suspend Procedure Rule 15 (4), enabling each of the political group leaders to address the Council without a specific time limit.

Following a vote it was

RESOLVED:

THAT Procedure Rule 15 (4) be suspended to enable the political group leaders to address the Council without time constraints.

The Leader addressed the Council and provided details of the proposed budget for 2007-08. The Council Tax Resolution for the financial year 2007-08 was circulated to all attendees. A resolution to accept the Cabinet's recommendation was moved and seconded.

An adjournment was proposed and seconded and following a vote it was

RESOLVED:

THAT Council recess for 15 minutes to enable Members time to consider the proposed budget and Resolution.

When the meeting reconvened the Chairman invited each of the political group leaders, or their nominees, to address Council.

The following amendment to the budget was moved by Cllr Lumley:

**ISLE OF WIGHT COUNCIL**

**BUDGET MEETING - 21 FEBRUARY 2007**

**LABOUR GROUP BUDGET PROPOSAL - EXCLUDING DIRECT SCHOOLS GRANT\***

**£000**

**Base Budget** 110,235

**Add:**

Inflation 3,069

Capital Financing Costs 2,124

Pensions 915

Social Care pressures 1,110

Other budget pressures (net) 70

**Deduct:**

Efficiency savings equivalent to Gershon

minimum target (all cashable) 2,833

**Changes in service priorities:**

Unused PCSO matched funding provision 50

Limit support to excellent parishes 40

Reduce amount for completion of Island Plan 40

**Investment in new Service Priorities:**

Community Wardens (10)	250
Increase support for Civic Pride projects	52
Additional Empty Properties resources	45
Increase support for Youth Service	50
Increase capacity for CCTV monitoring	24

<b>Net Expenditure</b>	<b>114,981</b>
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Formula Grant	50,701
Withdrawal from Reserves	0

<b>Council Tax Yield</b>	<b>64,280</b>
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<b>Proposed Band D Council Tax</b>	<b>1,188.55</b>
<b>Proposed Tax Increase (%)</b>	<b>3.5</b>

**\* DIRECT SCHOOLS GRANT - increase of £4950k - to balance budgetary pressures**

**and spending changes from 2006/07 budget for schools**

The amendment was seconded and following a debate the amendment was lost.

Following further debate on the original motion it was then put to the vote and

RESOLVED:

- I) The revenue estimates for 2007/08 be £113,990,868, allocated to Service Units as set out in Appendix 2.
- ii) Detailed implementation of the cash limit changes set out in Appendix 2 will be agreed with the relevant Cabinet member in each case.
- iii) That a Schools Budget exclusive of the LSC allocation be set at the level of Direct Schools Grant for 2007/08.
- iv) That the Schools Budget shares be determined by the Strategic Director for Children's Services, in consultation with the Schools Forum, within the approved service budget.
- v) That the three year budget and Council Tax projection as set out in Appendix 3 and Reserves and Provisions projections as set out in Appendix 4 be approved for planning purposes.
- vi) That the Capital Programme for 2007-08 be set at £50,654,600, financed as set out in Appendix 6, and that detailed scheme allocation within this total be determined by Directors Team, with subsequent approval by the relevant Cabinet member.
- vii) That the Prudential Code Indicators, Treasury Management Strategy and Investment Strategy set out in Appendix 6 be adopted.
- viii) That it be noted that the Council calculated the amounts for the year 2007/08 in accordance with regulations made under Section 33(5) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (The Tax Base).
- ix) That the amounts now calculated by the Council for the year 2007/08 in accordance with Sections 32 to 36 of the Local Government Act 1992 be as set out in Appendix 1.
- x) That it be noted that for the year 2007/08 the Hampshire Police Authority has stated the following amounts in Precepts issued to the Council, in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government



Finance Act 1992, for each of the categories of dwellings below:

Valuation Bands - Precepting Authority

	£
Band A	83.58
Band B	97.51
Band C	111.44
Band D	125.37
Band E	153.23
Band F	181.09
Band G	208.95
Band H	250.74

- xi) The Council will incur the following special expenses in 2007/08 under Section 35(2)(d) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992:

Parish & Town Council concurrent functions:	Carisbrooke	18,284
	Newport	140,279
	Northwood	12,607
	Ryde	212,492
	Whippingham	5,080

No other expenses of the Council are special expenses in 2007/08.

- xii) THAT, having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at paragraph viii) above and paragraphs e), f) & i) of Appendix 1, the Council, in accordance with Section 30(2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the following amounts as the amounts of Council Tax for the year 2007/08 for each of the following categories of dwelling:



## Council Tax Banding Calculation 2007/08

### Including Police Precept

	A	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
	(Disabled								
Parish & Town Council Areas	Reduction								
Arreton	870.4 1,015.5 1,160.5 1,305.6 1,595.8 1,885.9 2,176.1 2,611.3 725.37 4 1 9 6 1 5 0 2								
Bembridge	891.8 1,040.4 1,189.0 1,337.7 1,635.0 1,932.2 2,229.5 2,675.4 743.18 2 6 9 3 0 8 5 6								
Brading	894.4 1,043.5 1,192.5 1,341.6 1,639.7 1,937.9 2,236.0 2,683.2 745.36 3 0 7 4 8 2 7 8								
Brighstone	875.6 1,021.5 1,167.4 1,313.4 1,605.2 1,897.1 2,189.0 2,626.8 729.68 1 5 8 2 9 6 3 4								
Calbourne	878.2 1,024.6 1,171.0 1,317.4 1,610.1 1,902.9 2,195.7 2,634.8 731.90 8 6 4 2 8 4 0 4								
Chale	879.6 1,026.2 1,172.8 1,319.4 1,612.7 1,905.9 2,199.1 2,638.9 733.05 6 7 8 9 1 3 5 8								
Cowes	876.5 1,022.5 1,168.6 1,314.7 1,606.9 1,899.1 2,191.2 2,629.5 730.42 1 9 8 6 3 0 7 2								
East Cowes	879.3 1,025.8 1,172.4 1,318.9 1,612.0 1,905.1 2,198.2 2,637.9 732.75 0 5 0 5 5 5 5 0								
Fishbourne	875.5 1,021.4 1,167.3 1,313.2 1,605.1 1,896.9 2,188.8 2,626.5 729.60 2 4 6 8 2 6 0 6								
Freshwater	877.9 1,024.2 1,170.6 1,316.9 1,609.5 1,902.2 2,194.8 2,633.8 731.62 5 7 0 2 7 2 7 4								
Gatcombe	885.5 1,033.1 1,180.7 1,328.3 1,623.4 1,918.6 2,213.8 2,656.6 737.95 4 3 2 1 9 7 5 2								
Godshill	876.8 1,022.9 1,169.0 1,315.2 1,607.4 1,899.7 2,192.0 2,630.4 730.67 1 4 8 1 8 5 2 2								
Gurnard	883.1 1,030.2 1,177.4 1,324.6 1,619.0 1,913.3 2,207.7 2,649.3 735.92 0 8 7 5 2 8 5 0								
Havenstreet & Ashey	881.1 1,028.0 1,174.9 1,321.7 1,615.5 1,909.2 2,202.9 2,643.5 734.32 9 5 2 8 1 4 7 6								



	Reduction)								
Carisbrooke	728.74	874.4	1,020.2	1,165.9	1,311.7	1,603.2	1,894.7	2,186.2	2,623.4
Newport	731.56	877.8	1,024.1	1,170.4	1,316.8	1,609.4	1,902.0	2,194.6	2,633.6
Northwood	727.71	873.2	1,018.7	1,164.3	1,309.8	1,600.9	1,892.0	2,183.1	2,619.7
Ryde	733.79	880.5	1,027.3	1,174.0	1,320.8	1,614.3	1,907.8	2,201.3	2,641.6
Whippingham	727.74	873.2	1,018.8	1,164.3	1,309.9	1,601.0	1,892.1	2,183.2	2,619.8

## 55. CABINET

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### Reports Of The Cabinet Members

In view of the lateness of the hour it was proposed and seconded that the meeting be extended by fifteen minutes to enable each of the Cabinet Members to present their reports.

Following a brief debate the motion was lost.

#### (i) The Leader

A written report had been circulated and the Leader did not wish to add anything further.

Cllr Gardiner asked the Leader what action was being taken to inform Members how to relate to staff in the light of the Staff Survey results regarding bullying. The Leader advised that an investigation was being undertaken to identify when the bullying began and how much was attributable to perception.

Cllr Stephens questioned what percentage of the Island population took part in the recent One Island consultation survey. The Leader advised that he would provide a written response.

Cllr Lumley asked the Leader if an apology on behalf of the current administration would be issued to staff regarding the bullying issue. The Leader advised that a statement would be included in the first internal magazine.

At 9.00 pm the Chairman closed the meeting.

CHAIRMAN